

attempt to do away with the money allowance, our numbers of applicants decreased alarmingly and we were compelled to advertize and to take every applicant, good, bad, or indifferent, who presented herself. We never carried out the plan of not paying the pupils and I should never for a moment entertain it again here where the innumerable small hospitals appeal so strongly to the majority of young women. I have not found the majority of them whom I have personally interviewed very keen for the opportunity of experience and education—the short course is what appeals to them.

Since writing the above, we have received a copy of "A Letter on the Best Length of a Course of General Training for Nurses," submitted to the Department of Public Charities by the New York City Visiting Committee, based upon the study of opinions of one hundred and forty-five superintendents of training schools or of hospitals throughout the United States, under date of November 20, 1907.

This committee's conclusions coincide in almost every detail with the recommendations made by Miss Palmer in her paper. They are compiled from a report submitted to the New York City Visiting Committee by its secretary, Mr. Courtney Dinwiddie, October 23, 1907. This report will be published in full in the next number of the JOURNAL and we regret that it was received too late to be used in this issue.

This report, taken as a whole, coming from a committee composed of the most prominent men and women interested in hospitals and training schools in New York City, is an unequivocal endorsement of the standards which nurses are endeavoring to maintain for the betterment of nursing education and the more skillful care of the sick.

READING FOR THE SICK.

MISS KULZICK in her paper on Reading for the Sick has presented a group of books from which the taste of almost every reader can be satisfied. She has not touched, however, upon the magazines from which so many people derive entertainment and information concerning the vital questions of the day.

To thoughtful men and women who, even during periods of invalidism, keep their grasp upon the questions of the hour, we think perhaps the *Outlook* gives most concise and definite information. *The Review of Reviews* is popular, also, with many readers, covering as it does a greater range of subject matter.

There is hardly a child under fourteen for whom amusement and entertainment cannot be found in *St. Nicholas*. It contains many suggestions which can be utilized for the entertainment of the child as soon

as he has strength to use his hands. Of the older literary magazines, the *Century*, *Harper*, and *Scribner* have always held a prominent place in our estimation, and among the other monthlies from which we derive great entertainment *Lippincott's*, *the American Magazine*, and *McClure's* are constantly to be seen in the hands of travellers and are no less welcome in the home. To many a woman who has not regained her vital interest in life the *Delineator* with its bright illustrations and its excellent short stories will give a great amount of pleasure. This magazine is no longer to be considered in the light of simply a fashion magazine. Its child rescue campaign, recently begun in the interest of homeless children, places it in the front ranks of those magazines which are conspicuous in the work of bettering living conditions. In the November number, the announcement was made that there are two hundred thousand homes in America without children and that there were twenty-five thousand children in New York City alone without homes. During the month that followed, three hundred requests for children were received through the mails by the *Delineator*, women and men making journeys of a thousand miles to secure one of these little waifs. With the quack medicine crusade waged by *Collier's* during the past year or two, and the sex education of the child on the part of the *Ladies Home Journal*, there are hardly any of these magazines which the nurse may not choose with pleasure and profit not only to read aloud but for her own edification.

Although not included in either popular or nursing literature, we must not forget *Charities*, that little magazine which deals with all phases of philanthropic work and treats those problems of public service which are so closely allied to nursing that every progressive nurse needs it for the broader understanding of her work.

In regard to all so-called social questions there is no doubt that a popular magazine with a large circulation among the people can do greater work than professional journals either nursing or medical.

Frequently when books cannot be afforded or easily obtained the nearest railroad station or news stand will supply a magazine which will afford diversion for a number of days and at a cost so reasonable that if the nurse is obliged to bear the expense herself her personal advantage compensates her for the outlay.

THE PROBLEM OF THE SMALL HOSPITAL.

A. W. in Letters to the Editor has renewed the discussion of an old problem, one that has never been satisfactorily solved, for small hospitals which are isolated.